



HaZAMIR is a project of the ZAMIR CHORAL FOUNDATION  
MATTHEW LAZAR, Founder and Director

## *HaZamir Is About...*

### *...Making Beautiful Music.*

We are a network of chapters across the United States and in Israel that rehearse weekly in our local communities and then unite together to master our concert-length repertoire under the direction of our devoted and talented conductors. But to say it is only about the music is to miss the true meaning of HaZamir ... because HaZamir is so much more ...

### *...Making Friends.*

We provide a safe, wholesome setting for Jewish teenagers to meet each other from cities close to home, and far away. Let's face it — teens like to socialize, and there's a lot of that in HaZamir.

### *...Building Character.*

We take this seriously — we are building identity and instilling values. Our teens learn the significance of hard work, discipline, punctuality and preparedness. They learn there is a value in making an individual contribution to a larger community.

### *...Developing Leadership Skills.*

HaZamir takes every opportunity to nurture the leadership potential of its members. Each HaZamir chapter has a built-in progression of leadership as older teens welcome their younger counterparts into HaZamir. Representatives from each chapter also participate in HaZamir's Teen Leadership Initiative, helping to welcome and orient new singers in their own chapters, and planning activities to facilitate social interaction during regional and national events.

### *...Mutual Respect.*

Secular and observant, believers and doubters — ours is a chorus of many voices of different backgrounds, levels of knowledge and observance. But at the end of the day we are all Jews, singing in harmony, in one collective voice. HaZamir fosters respect and mutual understanding. It is not about what divides us; it is about what brings us together.

### *...Israel.*

We build and strengthen the important relationship American Jews must have with the Jewish state. We think about Israel; we sing about Israel; we pray for its safety; and we get to know Israel through the strong friendships we make with the singers of HaZamir Israel.

### *...Jewish Continuity.*

We are committed to providing Jewish teens with the opportunity to express their Jewishness and feel intimately connected to the Jewish people. Our goal? To keep the music of our people loud and strong forever, and to provide the next generation with the knowledge of our tradition and the leadership skills necessary for our teens to succeed in the future.

*Creating Harmony in the Next Generation*

## *HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir,*

a program of the Zamir Choral Foundation, provides hundreds of Jewish high school-age students with the unique opportunity to sing Jewish choral music, build community, develop leadership skills and connect to Jewish culture. HaZamir's high-quality, structured program instills in its youth a lifelong commitment



to Jewish culture and music and builds a strong foundation for its participants' future Jewish involvement. HaZamir transcends boundaries, giving teenagers a valuable and rare trans-denominational experience as an opportunity to forge close bonds and unite in a common goal. Each member of the growing network of local HaZamir chapters is directed by a talented conductor whose devotion to the highest standard of Jewish music-making helps to inspire the next generation of Jewish choral singers.

*The Zamir Choral Foundation*, created by Matthew Lazar, promotes Jewish choral music as a vehicle to inspire Jewish life, culture and continuity. Building on the success of the Zamir Chorale, the first Zionist Hebrew-singing chorus in North America, Mr. Lazar sought an expansive vision that went beyond the activities of any single choir — one that fostered Jewish identity across generational, denominational and political lines.

Today, through extensive programming, education, sponsorships and special events, the Zamir Choral Foundation, the only Foundation of its kind devoted to Jewish choral music, is at the core of an ever-growing network of Jewish choirs, singers and music. The Zamir Choral Foundation is creating a new world of Jewish music, musicians and culture for today and the future.



### **The programs of the Zamir Choral Foundation include:**

- HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir
- The North American Jewish Choral Festival
- The Zamir Chorale
- The Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment for New Music
- Zamir Choral Foundation Missions to Israel
- Special Programs and Conferences

*Matthew Lazar* is the leading force of the Jewish choral movement in North America. His superior talents as a conductor and interpreter of Jewish music have elevated audiences across the continent. His visionary leadership led to the creation of the Zamir Choral Foundation, which continues to nurture the growth of Jewish choral singing. Mr. Lazar has inspired the creation of adult choral ensembles throughout the United States. In addition to his activities in the realm of Jewish choral music, Maestro Lazar has also appeared as guest conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Chamber Symphony, the Ra'anana Symphony, and the Ravina Music Festival. Mr. Lazar regularly appears with the great cantors of our generation, and has been presenting programs at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other major concert halls in the United States and Israel for four decades.

Mr. Lazar has served on the faculties of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a frequent lecturer and scholar-in-residence in communities and universities across the United States. In addition to his albums with the Zamir Chorale, his recordings include *Chants Mystique I and II* with Alberto Mizrahi and *Chants Mystique, Birthday of the World I and II* and *A Taste of Eternity I and II* with the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble, and *Songs for Jerusalem*, featuring a special narration by Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel.

